



Scientific Name: *Astragalus sterilis* Barneby

Bibliographic Reference: Barneby, 1949. Leaf. W. Bot. 5: 193.

Common Name: Barren milkvetch

Family (Common Name): Fabaceae or Leguminosae (Pea Family)

Synonyms: *Astragalus cusickii* A. Gray var. *sterilis* Barneby

Idaho Native Plant Society Category: Global Priority 3

Natural Heritage Program Rank: S1

Global and State Ranks: G3

Distribution: Owyhee Desert along and near Succor Creek and the lower Owyhee River in Malheur Co., Oregon and adjacent Owyhee Co., Idaho in the vicinity of Dry Creek and McBride Creek.

Habitat: Bluffs, knolls and slopes in sagebrush-grass and bitterbrush-Sandberg bluegrass communities on white or reddish-brown ash soils that decompose to clay.

Phenology: May through June.

Look-alikes: Similar to other varieties of *A. cusickii* but differing from them in the smaller leaflets (2-5 mm long vs 5-8 mm), subterranean root-crown and bright red-mottled pods.



Closeup of *Astragalus sterilis*

Roger Rosentreter



Habitat of *Astragalus sterilis*

Steve Caicco

Species
Distribution

